WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Demands of Fishermen

† 466. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fishermen from various regions of the country under *the* banner at National Fish Workers Forum had given a memorandum to Government by staging a demonstration in support of their demands in Delhi;

(b) it so, the demands of the demonstrations;

(c) whether Government have decided to consider on these demands; and

(d) if so, the details of the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major demands raised by National Fish Worker's forum are as follows:

(i) Withdrawal of Aquacufture Authority Bill.

(ii) Implementation of Recommendations of Murari Commettee.

(iii) Implementation and extension of Savings-Cum-Relief Scheme with inclusion of women and inland fishworkers.

(iv) Stop Import of fish.

(c) and (d) These demands have been considered by the Government and the decisions taken in this regard are given in the enclosed Statement

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

(i) *The Aquaculture Authority Bill:* The Bill has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 28-2-2000, has been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Agriculture for examination. Bill seeks to regulate aquaculture activities in an eco-friendly manner.

(ii) *Implementation of the Recommendation of Murari Committee:* The Murari Committee appointed for reviewing the Deep Sea Fishing Policy, as several objections were raised against earlier Policy by traditional fishermen. The present status of action taken on the important recommendations is is below:

(a) The Deep Sea Fishing Policy, 1991 has been rescinded by the Government in 1996.

(b) No new permits/extension of renewal of permits/ permission under joint venture, leasing fishing and charter have been issued.

(c) Ministry of Agriculture has constituted a review committee to assess the area-wise requirements of different categories of vessels below 20 m length and conservation of fishery resources. The report of the Committer is under finalisation. A Committee has also been appoint to frame a comprehensive deep sea fishing policy.

(d) The Coast Guard is being assisted to procure communication equipments for monitoring operation of fishing vessels in Indian EEZ.

(e) All matters relating to fisheries except processing, export and education have been brought together in the Animal Husbandry and Dairying in the Ministry of Agriculture.

(f) The Fishery Survey of India is being assisted to enhance its survey capabilities, and ac to purchase new vessels has been initiated.

(iii) *Inclusion of women and inland fishworkers in all the states under Saving-Cum-Relief Scheme:* It has been decided to extent the Saving-Cum-Relief Scheme to Inland Fish workers. Common the

State Governments on inclusion of women in the Saving-cum-Relief, scheme have been requested, since the scheme is partly funded by State Governments, A decision on the proposal will be take after ascertaining the views of State Governments.

(iv) *Import of Fish:* The fear that import of fish will destroy the fishing industry is misplaced. The *import of* fish into the country is limited. Moreover, the fish processing infrastructure in the country is utilized to the extent of 20 per cent of the installed capacity only. Import of fish as raw material by processors/exporters is generally •for re-export. This encourages employment generation, apart increasing exports.

Implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme

467. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken any decision few years back to implement Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, when such decision was taken;

(c) what are the names of the States in the country where Crop Insurance Scheme is in force; and

(d) what are the reasons for non-implementation of this scheme in the remaining States and by when, this scheme is likely to be implemented in the whole country in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY. OF .AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) To enlarge the coverage in terms of farmers (both loanee and non-loanee), crops and risk under Crop Insurance, the Government have introduced a new scheme titled 'National Agricultural Insurance Scheme' (NAIS)- (Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojna) in the country from Rabi 1999-2000. The decision to implement the new scheme (replacing the existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme) was taken by the Government on 21.06.1999,

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